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DEPARTMENT OF THE

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Date: 4/10/99

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O 041237Z AUG 93 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6432
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON



S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 BEIJING 027758

ABU DHABI PASS DUBAI

OP CENTER ALERT NEA, PM, AND EAP IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT
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PAGE 02 BEIJIN 27758 01 OF 05 041237Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, ETTC, CBW, CH, IR, EWWT, PHSA
SUBJECT: CHINESE PLAN JOINT PRC/UAE INSPECTION OF "YIN
HE" CARGO; ASK FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN GETTING UAE
PERMISSION FOR "YIN HE" TO OFF-LOAD CARGO FOR IRAN

REF A) STATE 236236 (AND PREVIOUS), B) BEIJING 27552
(AND PREVIOUS)

1. SECRET -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION: PRC MFA ASSISTANT FOREIGN
MINISTER SUMMONED AMBASSADOR ROY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
AUGUST 4 TO DELIVER THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO U.S. DEMARCHES
ON THE SHIPMENT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRECURSORS TO IRAN VIA

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THE CHINESE VESSEL "YIN HE". QIN CLAIMED THE U.S.-
PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT THE "YIN HE" WAS CARRYING
THIODIGLYCOL AND THIONYL CHLORIDE WAS INACCURATE, AND
COMPLAINED THAT U.S. MILITARY SURVEILLANCE OF THE "YIN HE"
HAD INTERFERED WITH THE VESSEL'S NORMAL OPERATION.
NEVERTHELESS, OUT OF A SINCERE DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE
ISSUE, HE SAID, CHINA HAD ASKED THE SHIP TO HALT
TEMPORARILY AND THAT CHINA WAS READY TO ARRANGE A JOINT
UAE/PRC INSPECTION OF THE SUSPECT CARGO AFTER IT WAS OFF-
LOADED IN DUBAI. QIN ASKED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN
CONVINCING THE UAE TO AGREE TO THIS OFF-LOADING AND
INSPECTION. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED QIN FOR THE RESPONSE,
WELCOMED CHINA'S READINESS TO COOPERATE IN RESOLVING THIS
ISSUE, [REDACTED]

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(c)

[REDACTED] THE
AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT COOPERATION OF THIS TYPE WAS
ESSENTIAL IN ACHIEVING OUR MUTUAL GOAL OF PREVENTING
PROLIFERATION.

3. RECOMMENDATION: [REDACTED]

B1, B5
(b)(4)

END SUMMARY AND
RECOMMENDATION.

4. PRC MFA ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER QIN HUASUN URGENTLY
SUMMONED THE AMBASSADOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THE
AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 4 TO DELIVER THE PRC RESPONSE TO
PREVIOUS U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON THE SHIPMENT OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS PRECURSORS TO IRAN ON THE CHINESE VESSEL "YIN HE".
QIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MFA DISARMAMENT DIVISION DEPUTY
DIRECTOR ZHANG WEIDONG; U.S. DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHI
LONGZHUANG; DISARMAMENT DIVISION STAFFER FU CONG; AND AN
MFA INTERPRETER. POLMILOFF AND EMBASSY INTERPRETER
ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR.

5. QIN THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS QUICK RESPONSE TO
THE REQUEST TO MEET AND THEN READ THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO
THE U.S. INFORMATION (FULL TEXT BELOW, PARA. 20). IN HIS
RESPONSE QIN:

-- NOTED OUR EARLIER DEMARCHES;

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-- CLAIMED ACTIONS OF U.S. WARSHIPS AND AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING
AND PHOTOGRAPHING THE "YIN HE" HAD HINDERED THE VESSEL'S
NORMAL TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES;

-- SAID CHINA HAD CONDUCTED A "THOROUGH" INVESTIGATION OF
THE ALLEGED EXPORT OF CW PRECURSORS TO IRAN;

-- INFORMED US THAT THE PRC GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED THE YIN
HE TO STOP WHILE THE INVESTIGATION WAS ONGOING AND THAT
THE VESSEL WAS NOW "ADrift" AT 56 DEGREES, 54 MINUTES EAST
LONGITUDE, 26 DEGREES 15 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE WITH U.S
WARSHIPS ON EACH SIDE OF THE SHIP;

-- ASSERTED CHINA HAD INCURRED ECONOMIC LOSSES AS A RESULT
OF THE DELAY IN THE SHIP'S VOYAGE;

-- DECLARED THE CHINESE SHIP WAS CARRYING ON NORMAL
COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION, AND CHINA HAD NO OBLIGATION TO
PROVIDE THE U.S. WITH INFORMATION ON THE CARGO AND ROUTE
OF THE SHIP;

-- TOLD US THE CHINESE INVESTIGATION REVEALED INACCURACIES
IN THE U.S. INFORMATION: E.G., THE YIN HE DID NOT DEPART

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INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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FROM DALIAN AND WAS NOT SCHEDULED FOR IRAN; [REDACTED]

-- ARGUED THAT THE U.S. INTERFERENCE IN NORMAL SHIPPING
ACTIVITY ON THE BASIS OF INACCURATE INFORMATION WAS
UNWARRANTED AND NOT CONDUCTIVE TO MUTUAL COOPERATION;

-- REQUESTED THE U.S. TO CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES "OBSTRUCTING
AND INTERFERING" WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE "YIN HE" AND
ENSURE THAT THE OFF-LOADING OF THE VESSEL'S CARGO SHOULD
NOT BE INTERFERED WITH, OR THE U.S. "SHOULD BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESULTING LOSSES AND CONSEQUENCES";

-- ANNOUNCED THAT IN A SINCERE EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE
ISSUE, CHINA WOULD CONSULT WITH THE UAE GOVERNMENT TO
ARRANGE FOR A JOINT PRC/UAE INSPECTION [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SUCH INSPECTIONS WOULD BE VIDEO RECORDED AND
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOTH SIDES;

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-- ASKED THE U.S. TO "TAKE A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE AND APPROACH THE UAE" TO ASSIST IN A "SMOOTH" SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM; AND

-- CONTENDED THE "YIN HE" COULD NOT STAY ADRIFT FOR LONG AND ASKED THE U.S. TO CALL OFF ITS USE OF MILITARY VESSELS TO PURSUE AND MONITOR THE SHIP IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY "UNPLEASANT EVENTS".

6. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED QIN FOR THE RESPONSE TO THE U.S. INFORMATION AND SAID HE PARTICULARLY WELCOMED TWO PARTS OF THE CHINESE RESPONSE:

-- THE INFORMATION THAT THE PRC HAD ORDERED THE VESSEL TO STOP WHILE THE CHINESE INVESTIGATION PROCEEDED; AND

-- THE CHINESE ANNOUNCEMENT IT WAS PREPARED FOR A JOINT UAE/PRC INSPECTION OF THE SUSPECT CARGO BEFORE IT WAS TRANSHIPPED TO IRAN.

7. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THE CHINESE HAD REPEATEDLY STRESSED THEIR STRICT CONTROLS ON DANGEROUS CHEMICALS AND NOTED THIS WAS A GOAL WE AND THE CHINESE HAD IN COMMON. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT IN CASES OF ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS IT WAS NORMAL FOR THOSE INVOLVED TO PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION, INCLUDING TO THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. THE INFORMATION THE U.S. HAD PROVIDED TO THE CHINESE WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING THESE MUTUAL GOALS.

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8. TURNING TO QIN'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. MILITARY VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY ACTIVITIES BY U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT THAT INTERFERED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE CHINESE VESSEL.

THE U.S. INTENTION, THE AMBASSADOR TOLD QIN, WAS TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE "YIN HE" AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PRC. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW ANY ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. HAD RESULTED IN "LOSSES" TO THE CHINESE. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED QIN'S POINT THAT THE "YIN HE" HAD STOPPED DUE TO ORDERS FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT

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TAKEN ANY ACTIONS TO INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE VESSEL.

9. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT QIN'S POINT THAT THE CARGO WAS NOT TO BE DELIVERED TO BANDAR E-ABBAS DIRECTLY, BUT BY TRANSHIPMENT VIA DUBAI, WAS CONSISTENT WITH OUR INFORMATION. HE ADDED THAT OUR MOST RECENT INFORMATION WAS THAT THE "YIN HE" MIGHT PROCEED TO OTHER PORTS RATHER THAN DUBAI. IN THAT CASE, THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THE CHINESE SHOULD ARRANGE FOR A SIMILAR TYPE OF INSPECTION IF THE SUSPECT CARGO WAS OFF-LOADED IN ANOTHER PORT.

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AMAD-01	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	CIP-10
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SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6434
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
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10. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF USING
EFFORTS LIKE THESE TO BUILD UP A BASE OF MUTUAL TRUST IN
ORDER TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES THAT WILL ALLOW US TO WORK
TOGETHER ON PREVENTING THE SHIPMENT OF ILLEGAL CARGO.

11. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCURACY OF
THE U.S. INFORMATION, BUT ADDED THAT IF OUR INFORMATION
WAS INCORRECT WE WANTED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO IMPROVE OUR
ABILITY TO COOPERATE ON SUCH MATTERS. WITH THE PROPER
COOPERATION, BOTH SIDES COULD IMPROVE THEIR EFFORTS. THIS
WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

12. QIN RESPONDED THAT HE ALSO BELIEVED IN GREATER
COOPERATION AND BUILDING MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. CHINA
SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS AND WAS READY TO COOPERATE IN EFFORTS TO THIS END.
HOWEVER, QIN SAID, PRUDENCE WAS NEEDED AND CARE SHOULD BE
USED IN PROVIDING INFORMATION. WE HAD COMMON INTERESTS,
QIN NOTED; WHAT WE LACKED WAS MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

13. QIN SAID HE WISHED TO STRESS SEVERAL POINTS:

-- THE CHINESE SHIP WAS ENDANGERED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE TWO AMERICAN SHIPS STATIONED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE
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"YIN HE" AND THE AIRCRAFT FLYING OVERHEAD PHOTOGRAPHING
THE SHIP. THE "YIN HE" WAS ENGAGED IN NORMAL COMMERCIAL
ACTIVITY ON THE HIGH SEAS AND WAS ENTITLED TO THE FREEDOM
OF THE HIGH SEAS. QIN REPEATED HIS REQUEST THAT THE U.S.
TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO STOP THE ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S.
SHIPS AND WARPLANES.

-- IT WAS NOT SAFE FOR THE SHIP TO REMAIN ADRIFT. IT

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SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED TO ITS SCHEDULED PORTS OF CALL;

-- THE 24 CONTAINERS INTENDED FOR TRANSHIPMENT TO IRAN SHOULD BE OFF-LOADED IN DUBAI. THERE WAS NO PLAN TO TAKE THEM TO OTHER PORTS. THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES;

-- THE INSPECTION THE CHINESE PLANNED WOULD BE A JOINT ONE WITH UAE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES;

-- CHINA HOPED THE U.S. WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO MAKE SURE THIS PLAN WAS CARRIED OUT AND THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT PUT ANY OBSTACLES IN THE WAY.

QIN REITERATED THAT THE SHIP COULD NOT REMAIN ADRIFT FOR MUCH LONGER AND ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO REPORT THE CHINESE POINTS TO WASHINGTON RIGHT AWAY.

14. QIN ONCE MORE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE U.S. SHIPS NEAR THE "YIN HE", SAYING THAT ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE INFORMATION THE U.S. SHIPS WERE TWO NAUTICAL MILES AWAY ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CHINESE VESSEL. THIS WAS DANGEROUS AND
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COULD RESULT IN UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES THAT NEITHER SIDE WANTED. QIN AGAIN ASKED THAT THE U.S. SHIPS AND WARPLANES IMMEDIATELY CEASE INTERFERING WITH THE "YIN HE".

15. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT AT ONE POINT THE U.S. HAD INFORMATION THAT UAE AUTHORITIES MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO ALLOW THE "YIN HE" TO ENTER ITS WATERS. QIN RESPONDED THAT IF THIS WAS SO, IT WAS BECAUSE OF "INACCURATE INFORMATION" THE U.S. HAD PROVIDED. THAT WAS WHY CHINA HOPED THE U.S. WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE UAE TO HELP RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

16. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THE U.S. HAD NOT REQUESTED THE UAE TO TAKE SUCH A STEP. HE SAID THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE AND ASKED IF CHINA HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE UAE ON THIS MATTER. QIN REPLIED THAT THE UAE'S DECISION ON THIS WAS THE UAE'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO MAKE. QIN SAID THAT IF THE U.S. PROVIDED CORRECT INFORMATION TO THE UAE GOVERNMENT, THAT WOULD HELP FACILITATE THE MATTER.

17. THE AMBASSADOR REPEATED THAT THE U.S. HAD CONFIDENCE IN ITS INFORMATION AND AGAIN POINTED OUT TO THE ASSISTANT

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FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES WOULD TRY TO COVER UP THEIR ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE FALSE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE, EVEN TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THROUGH COOPERATION ON THIS ISSUE, THE AMBASSADOR TOLD QIN, THE U.S. AND CHINA COULD BUILD A BASIS FOR TRUST.

18. QIN AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ACT ON THE BASIS OF CORRECT INFORMATION. HE SAID WE SHOULD WAIT AND SEE THE RESULTS OF THE INSPECTION. AFTER ONCE MORE REPEATING HIS REQUEST THAT THE U.S. SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT CEASE INTERFERENCE WITH THE CHINESE SHIP, QIN CLOSED THE MEETING BY AGAIN ASKING THE U.S. TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE UAE IN GETTING THE MATTER RESOLVED.

19. COMMENT:

END COMMENT

BEGIN TEXT OF CHINESE NON-PAPER:

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET